

Amendments to the Specification

The following amendments are made relative to the English translation of the specification, submitted April 18, 2006.

Please replace the paragraph that starts at page 1 as "Human health is increasingly impeded" with the following amended paragraph:

Human health is increasingly impeded by environmental noxa. This is particularly due to air pollution caused by airborne dust which may be fibrous or particulate in nature. Epidemiological investigations have shown that airborne particulates are contributing to the development of pulmonary affections and cardiovascular diseases. In large European cities 60,000 fatalities per year are associated with long-term air pollution. Airborne particulates play a major part in air pollution. Assumptions are that for the time being it will, in fact, not be possible to significantly reduce by filtering measures the airborne particulate exposure, especially that caused by fine and ultrafine airborne particles. On the contrary, it is to be expected that this exposure will even increase considerably. ~~From the URL <http://propulmone.ch/Staubpartikel-it> it~~ It is known that an individual inhales a minimum of 400,000 m<sup>3</sup> of air during its lifetime. With an average particle concentration of 30 µg per m<sup>3</sup> of outer air and an assumed 20% proportion of it retained in the lungs approximately 100 particles per day are deposited in each of the 300 millions pulmonary alveoli. In smoker households exposure is expected to be about 20 to 45% higher. The harmful effects to be associated with airborne particles are due to an interaction between these molecules and the human pulmonary tissue. As a result of this, inflammatory and, at times, even malignant pulmonary diseases will be experienced. Suspended particulate matter entering the lungs is thus to be viewed as one of the most significant causes of pulmonary diseases.

Please replace the paragraph that starts at page 1 as "It thus follows that" with the following amended paragraph:

It thus follows that in an industrial society there is an ever increasing exposure of the lungs to airborne or suspended particulate which doubtlessly contributes to disease-related fatalities increasing to a degree not to be underestimated. Moreover, it is known ~~from the above mentioned URL~~ that according to recent studies effects harmful to health must even be assumed in the event of suspended particulate concentration hitherto viewed as unobjectionable. Investigations conducted in several large cities revealed that with the daily airborne particulate exposure dose going up by as little as 10 µg/ m<sup>3</sup> non-accident related fatalities also increased by 0.5 to 1%. Since, as mentioned above, the suspended particulate concentration in the air cannot be reduced effectively and as the use of respiration filters can only be resorted to in

exceptional cases, generally and simply applied means have to be looked for by means of which harmful exposure on the lungs can be alleviated and consequential damage kept to a minimum.